REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-9, 13-19, 26-38, 58, 59, and 62-84 are pending, with claims 1, 26, 62, 71, and 80 being independent. Claims 20-25, 39-57, 60, and 61 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and claims 62-84 have been added. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found throughout the application, for example, at page 5, line 15 through page 12, line 12 referring to Figs. 2 and 3. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the telephonic interview on January 15, 2008. During the interview, Examiner Nguyen and Applicants' representative discussed the amendment to claim 1 and new claim 62. Examiner Nguyen agreed that amended claim 1 and new claim 62 overcome the art of record. This response reflects the substance of the interview.

Of the pending claims, claims 1, 26, 31, 32, 58, and 59 have been objected to for minor informalities. Applicants have amended claims 1, 26, 31, 32, 58, and 59 and submit that the amendments to claims 1, 26, 31, 32, 58, and 59 address all of the issues raised in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1-9 and 13-61 were rejected as being anticipated by Selgas (U.S. Patent Number 6,571,290). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Selgas fails to describe or suggest the subject matter of amended independent claims 1 and 26, as described below. During the interview of January 15, 2008, Examiner Nguyen agreed that the amendments to claim 1 overcome the art of record.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicants submit that the cited art fails to describe or suggest at least accessing configuration history information describing performance statistics including a total number of connections the client node has attempted with the host node, a total number of connections the client node has established with the host node, an individual session length of a connection between the client node and the host node, and an average session length of connections between the client node and the host node, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Independent claim 26, although different in scope from claim 1, includes features similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 26 along with its dependent claims.

With respect to new claim 62, as discussed in the interview of January 15, 2008, Applicants submit that the cited art fails to describe or suggest at least modifying the client network configuration parameter associated with the first client node used to establish the network connections between the host node and the first client node based on the first configuration history information and the second configuration history information, as recited in new independent claim 62. Notably, during the interview of January 15, 2008, Examiner Nguyen agreed that new independent claim 62 overcomes the art of record.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that new independent claim 62 and its dependent claims are allowable.

New independent claim 71, although different in scope from claim 62, includes features similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 62. Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 62, Applicants submit that new independent claim 71 and its dependent claims are allowable.

With respect to new claim 80, Applicants submit that the cited art fails to describe or suggest at least accessing configuration history information describing performance statistics including at least one of a total number of connections the client node has established with the host node, an individual session length of a connection between the client node and the host node, and an average session length of connections between the client node and the host node, as recited in new independent claim 80.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that new independent claim 80 and its dependent claims are allowable.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be

exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136, Applicants hereby petition that the period for response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2007 be extended for one month to and including January 25, 2008.

The fee in the amount of $120.00 in payment of the one-month extension of time fee is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/25/2008
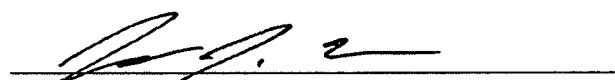
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